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# FIRST QUARTERLY REPORT

**APPUI A LA VALORISATION DU POTENTIEL AGRICOLE DU NORD, A LA  
SECURITE ECONOMIQUE ET ENVIRONNEMENTALE**

**FtF-N *AVANSE***

**JULY 12, 2013**

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LA SÉCURITÉ ECONOMIQUE ET ENVIRONNEMENTALE**

**FtF-N *AVANSE***

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# ABBREVIATIONS

BAC	Bureaux Agricoles Communaux
COP	Chief of Party
DCOP	Deputy Chief of Party
DDA	Directions Départementales Agricoles
DD/MDE	Direction Départementale du Ministère de l'Environnement
DEED	Développement Économique pour un Environnement Durable Project
DR	Dominican Republic
EMPR	Environmental Mitigation Plan and Report
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization
FFS	farmer field school
FOG	fixed obligation grant
FtF-N	Feed the Future Initiative-Northern Corridor
Gds	Haitian Gourdes
GIS	geographic information system
ha	hectare
HIFIVE	Haiti Integrated Finance for Value Chains and Enterprises program
IDB	Inter-American Development Bank
IICA	Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture
IP	implementing partner
IR	Intermediate Result
LTTA	long-term technical assistance
MARNDR	Ministry of Agriculture, Natural Resources, and Rural Development
M&E	monitoring and evaluation
MFI	Micro-Finance Institution
MIS	market information system
ME	micro-enterprise
NGO	nongovernmental organization

NRM	natural resource management
OCA	organizational capacity assessment
PO	producer organization
PPP	public-private partnership
PTTA	Projet de Transfert de Technologies Appropriées
RESEPAG	Strengthening of Agricultural Public Services Project
RFP/RFA	request for proposals/request for applications
SME	small and medium-sized enterprise
SRI	System of Rice Intensification
STTA	short-term technical assistance
AVANSE	U.S.-Haiti Feed the Future Partnership: Northern Corridor project
SWMB	sub-watershed management body
TAMIS	Technical and Administrative Management Information System
USAID	U.S. Agency for International Development
WUA	water user association





# INTRODUCTION

This report covers the first quarter activities of the FtF-N *AVANSE* project. Major accomplishments during this period include the basic mobilization of key LTTA staff, the establishment of the project office in Cape Haitian, the submission of the project Work Plan covering the first six months, the submission of the Environmental Mitigation Plan and Report (EMPR) and the preliminary submission of the Monitoring & Evaluation Plan. The period was also marked by a high-profile project launching event held on June 20, 2013 marked by the attendance of the President of the Republic, the US Ambassador and the Minister of Agriculture. Several important field activities were also launched, setting the foundations for full-scale project implementation in the next reporting period. These include: initial site investigations and meetings with local government authorities as a prelude to the selection of key intervention zones under IR1 and IR2; the collection of technical agronomic materials and the elaboration of cropping model packages for the five focus crops (rice, maize, bananas/plantains, beans and cacao); planning for initial planting material acquisitions for the Fall planting season; initial diagnostic visits with agro-enterprises intervening in targeted value chains, and site investigations for road and irrigation infrastructure investments. The details of these and other activities appear in the following pages.

## START-UP ACTIVITIES

The FtF-N *AVANSE* project was signed on April 3, 2013. DAI placed a high priority on responding to USAID's expressed desire for a rapid launch and accelerated technical implementation. A high profile was placed initially on mobilizing the key members of the technical team to begin project activities. Critical activities related to the launching of the project are listed below.

*Initial Start-Up Meetings.* Within the first two weeks of contract award, three start-up meetings were held between USAID and DAI in Haiti. The initial start-up meeting was held in the USAID offices on April 8, 2013, with DAI Home Office Technical Start-Up Manager Christopher Reynolds, Deputy Chief of Party Joanas Gué and Senior STTA Advisor Tim Aston. The meeting focused on introductions, expectations from USAID, the mobilization plan for key project staff and planning for the upcoming technical workshop. A second post-award orientation meeting was held at the US embassy on April 11, 2013, with opening remarks by US Ambassador Pamela White and Deputy Mission Director Steve Olive. Over 25 USAID staff participated in the post award meeting from various offices. DAI was represented by Mr. Reynolds and Mr. Gué. The two hour orientation included presentations by USAID and US embassy office that covered the roles of USG personnel in contract administration, EXO assistance, the Financial Management Office (FMO), public relations, participant training, environmental compliance, and monitoring and evaluation. The post-award technical meeting was held April 18, 2013. The US Ambassador again provided opening remarks for the all-day retreat held off-site from the US embassy. Nine

of the **AVANSE** project's long-term technical leadership staff participated in the technical meeting, including the COP, and DCOP, along with Mr. Reynolds from the DAI home office and senior local technical short term consultants for the project. Over 30 USAID and US embassy staff participated in the meeting

*Official Project Launching Event.* With over 200 people in attendance, including President Martelly, the Minister of Agriculture Thomas Jacques and US Ambassador Pam White, the launching event held at the Complexe Administratif of Vaudreuil on Thursday June 20 was a success. Additional attendees included representatives from the mayoral staffs of 7 communes in the North and Northeast, the Délégués from both the North and Northeast, representatives of the Chambers of Commerce from the North and Northeast, the USAID Deputy Director Steve Olive, and a variety of media both national and local. After speeches welcoming and explaining FtF-N **AVANSE** a reception was held on site followed by a visit to Grison Garde where more than 400 people looked on as President Martelly and Ambassador White took part in a stone placement ceremony that served as the official launching of the first infrastructure cite selected for improvement under FtF-N **AVANSE**.

*Work Plan Preparation.* The LTTA team lead by the DCOP and assisted by the DAI Technical Backstop held a series of intensive internal meetings during the first two weeks of May to arrive at a consensus about key project activities and axes of intervention during the first year. These discussions allowed the team to hold an informal dry-run presentation of the work plan to USAID and representatives of the MARNDR Directions Départementaux d'Agriculture from both the North and North-East on May 10th. A formal work plan draft was submitted to USAID on May 15. After receiving comments from USAID on June 3, a final draft was submitted to USAID on June 19 along with a written response to some of the comments received from USAID, where these were not addressed by direct changes in the text.

*Initial Meetings with local government actors.* The project direction, led by the DCOP took the lead in organizing a series of meetings with local government actors and civil society players in the project zone. These meetings consisted of the following:

- May 10, meeting with the President of Chambre du Commerce du Nord (Nonce Zephir) and Maison Novella representative (Daniel Zephir) to introduce them to the project aspects and how we will work with the private sector;
- May 10, meeting with the Délégué from the Département du Nord (Ardoui Zephirin) to make a quick FTF presentation explaining axes of collaboration with local governments including how we intend to work with individual Maires as local development Agents;
- May 16 and 20, two separate meetings were held with both North and North East Department Délégués, Vice Délégués and Maires at Cap Haitian and at Fort Liberté to solicit local government understanding and involvement on **AVANSE**

*Initial Meetings with the MARNDR.* As a key implementation partner we have sought out to involve the key actors from the MARNDR in our initial planning. Specific meetings held with the presence of the FtF-N **AVANSE** DCOP who is responsible for relations with the MARNDR include the following:

- April 13, an initial meeting was held with DDAs from the North and the North East. The objective of this meeting was to allow the project to make a quick presentation of FtF-N **AVANSE** and to let each DDA know that it is very important to have them, as the MARNDR's main regional representatives, involved in our on-the-ground implementation.
- May 8, Meeting with DDA/Nord and the DD/MDE (Direction Départementale du Ministère de l'Environnement) to reinforce their understanding on how collaboration with the project and to start planning the project launching event.
- May 13, Meeting with DDA/North East Staff to inform them on FFTN strategy and activities and define a partnership path.

*Introductory meetings with USAID and other donor projects.* Meetings were held by the DCOP with the USAID HRI/OTI project on May 8 to explore capacity building approaches with local governments, potential staff availability and approaches to working with CBOs. The FtF-N **AVANSE** DCOP and IR1 Senior Production Specialist also participated in a June 11 workshop chaired by the Minister of Agriculture to foster synergy with all projects intervening in the project zone. Projects financed by the Union Européenne, World Bank, IFAD and IDB were all present. In addition to these meetings FTF **AVANSE**'s technical backstop Tom Lenaghan met with HIFIVE COP Greta Greathouse on May 27 to discuss collaboration on production and Micro-enterprise/SME financing and on future mobile money activities. HIFIVE has already developed a significant pipeline of \$2.2 mm of grants to 8 different MFIs that would support the development of agricultural credit in the Northern Project Zone. The grants are in various stages of development and the approval process and subject to the availability of funds to HIFIVE.

These grants and others that are being identified will be expected to increase the availability of production and working capital credit to FtF-N **AVANSE** farmer and enterprise beneficiaries. Substantial collaboration will begin in the next reporting period when the IR3 team is fully staffed and when actual work begins with Agro-Enterprise clients under IR3. Important meetings with IDB/WB financed RESEPAG and PTTA projects are programmed for July to discuss coordination of activities in the Grande Rivière du Nord Watershed, as well as input voucher subsidies.

# TECHNICAL IMPLEMENTATION ACTIVITIES

## IR1: AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTIVITY INCREASED

### IR 1 LTTA Staff as of June 30:

Philippe Mathieu: Senior Agricultural Production Specialist

Mathias Fils-Aimé: Maize, Rice & Beans Specialist

Raoul Dominique: Cacao Specialist

### IR1 LTTA Staff positions still to be filled as of June 30:

Banana Specialist

Producer/Water-User Association Officer

Rice Specialist

During the quarter IR1 staff under the direction of the Senior Production Specialist focused on three main axes: (1) starting to develop the crop intervention models for each of the five focus crop; (2) beginning canvassing potential field sites to identify Target Zones for IR crop production activities; and (3) beginning procurements of needed planting material for diffusion in projected first-round of training activities in the Fall. All three activities will be on-going with completion scheduled in the next reporting period. These and other activities during the quarter are described below by the main sub-results from the work plan.

### Sub-Result 1.1: Knowledge and Availability of Improved Production Technologies and Systems Increased

*Activity 1: Activity 1: Assemble and adapt FFS training materials for 5 target crops.* During the quarter IR1 staff met with key resource institutions in Haiti with expertise in the focus crops to begin compiling source material for both defining the specific crop protocols and use in future Farmer Field School (FFS) trainings. Resource institutions met include IICA, MARNDR, FAO, OXFAM and private sector firms involved in crop production and input supply. By the end of June IR 1 has draft cropping protocols that will be reviewed with STTA from leading Haitian experts in each cropping system in July in order to finalize the crop model protocols. These protocols were also discussed with the project M&E Team in order to facilitate planning on beneficiary targeting and the elaboration of indicators for the project M&E Plan. The IR1 Senior Production Specialist produced Scopes of Work for the need external consultations from local crop experts as well during the quarter. Recruitment and preparation of approval documentation for these STTA crop experts was underway at the end of June.

The case of cacao is somewhat special, as the FtF-N *AVANSE* team itself has access to materials and approaches developed under DEED. Input from expatriate cacao production expert BK Matlick has allowed the IR 1 cacao team to develop a cacao protocol and excel model of production growth and investment building on prior DEED work. Trainings for cacao grafters

and nurseries will begin in July, well ahead of the schedule for other crops. This is necessary to ensure a sufficient supply of genetic material for the next cacao planting season in October-December.

*Activity 2: Delimit Target Zones and identify Crop Implementation Sites for FFSs.* IR1 staff in conjunction with IR2 and the Project DCOP and COP established a set of criteria for selection of Target Zones in which IR1 activities will be focused during the life of the project. These are: (a) Productive potential for one or more of the five focus crops; (b) Accessibility to markets and inputs' (c) Potential to benefit from investments in irrigation and (d) Potential for realizing synergies with other donor and MARNDR projects. After an intensive review of available materials on the project zone and after initial discussions with MARNDR staff in the zone, an intensive program of field investigations was undertaken during the quarter to assess potential zones for the presentation of possible Target Zones. Although the IR1 Team will make a final presentation of selected zones to both the MARNDR and USAID in late July the following table shows a preliminary listing of main Target Zone Candidate areas-as well as key upper watershed zones in which investments in watershed protection under IR2 will be needed.

<b>Watershed</b>	<b>Upper Watershed areas for Protection (IR2)</b>	<b>Target Zones for Focus Crops in the Plains (IR1)</b>	<b>Priority Focus Crops</b>
Jassa	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Acul des pins</li> <li>• Gens de Nantes</li> </ul>	Haut Maribaroux Bas Maribatoux Ferrier	Rice, maize, bananas, beans
Marion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Perches</li> <li>• Acul Samedi (Loiseau, morne Diline)</li> <li>• Mayonbé</li> </ul>	Plaine Bayaya Zones irriguées (Coicou, Dumas, Charlopin)	Maize, beans, bananas, rice,
Trou du Nord	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sarazin</li> <li>• Foulon</li> <li>• Fonds bleu</li> </ul>	Roche plate, Plaine Caracol	Beans, maize, bananas, cacao.
Grande Rivière du Nord	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bois de Lance</li> <li>• Jolitrout</li> </ul>	Limonade Bord de mer Limonade	Cacao, bananas, maize, beans
Cap-Haitien	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Acul du nord</li> <li>• Vaudreuil</li> <li>• Milot</li> </ul>	La Suisse, Robillard, Grison Garde	Rice, bananas, cacao, maize, beans.
Limbé	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Marmelade,</li> <li>• Camp Coq, La Soufrière</li> <li>• Ravine. Desroches</li> </ul>	Bas-Limbé, Haut Limbé	Rice, Bananas, beans, maize, cacao

*Activity 3: Procure and multiply improved foundation planting materials; initiate 1st round nursery production and multiplication.* IR 1 cacao staff initiated contacts and orders to begin actual procurement of the needed base material for first year cacao activities. This consisted of preparing procurements for the ordering of needed seed cacao, as well as 3,500 budwood sticks from improved genetic stock in the Dominican Republic for grafting. In addition 15,000 grafted improved seedlings have been ordered from two local supplying nurseries to supply budwood gardens in the October-December planting period. Haitian Super Trees identified by DEED will be used as a source of

budwood in the next quarter. The IR1 team also has identified different suppliers for seeds and planting material for maize, beans and rice. Procurement documents and materials for source/origin waivers for these procurement actions were prepared. The current status of these various planting material procurements are given in the table below.

Target Crop	Variety and Type	Origin	Estimated Requirements	Current Status
Rice	Posequisa	Haïti (Artibonite)	5 MT	In course of validation by SNS and crop experts
	TCS 10	Haïti (Artibonite) RD		
Un-irrigated maize	Chicken Corn	Haïti (Les Cayes)	6.5 MT	Waivers ready
	Maquina	Haïti (Artibonite) Amérique centrale		
Irrigated maize	Pioneer 3041	USA		
	Hugo	Haïti (Cayes)		
Beans	Arroyo Negro	RD	14 MT	Waivers ready
	ICTA Ligero	Guatemala		
Lima Beans	Ford Hook	USA		
	Bese Ba	Haïti (Nord Ouest)		
Bananas	FHIA 20, FHIA 21	RD	1,000,000 cuttings	In course of validation by SNS and crop experts
	Carvendish William	Costa Rica		
Cacao	High yielding variety	RD	3,500 seedlings	Procurement launched
	High yielding variety	Haïti	11,000 cuttings	Procurement launched

*Activity 4: Deliver Training Modules in Farmer Field Schools.* There were no activities planned for the first quarter.

*Activity 5: Roll out planting and production in Farmer Field Schools.* There were no activities planned for the first quarter.

*Activity 6: Leverage Expertise in Production Available from US Universities.* FtF-N **AVANSE** and DAI Bethesda engaged in talks with Auburn University and the Global Knowledge Initiative (GKI) to begin planning for program of workshop in September to work with local University

with agronomy programs and the MARNDR building partnerships with US Universities oriented towards crop research and needed services that can contribute to increasing productivity in the Northern Project zone. The participation of both institutions for a series of September workshops has been agreed to. This initiative will be developed further in discussions between DAI, Auburn and GKI in the next quarter.

### **Sub-Result 1.2: Strengthened Extension of Agriculture Technologies**

*Activity 1: Conduct analysis of impact of gender on crop production system.* During the workplan period the Gender Specialist coordinated with Subcontractor Making Cents to draft a Scope of Work for this study. The SOW and team composition were being finalized with Making Cents at the close of the work plan period and will be submitted to USAID approval in July. IR1 staff will collaborate closely with this activity going forward.

### **Sub-Result 1.3: Access to Inputs Increased**

*Activity 1: Develop test voucher program for planting materials in Crop Implementation Sites;*

*Activity 2: Develop test voucher program for fertilizers/pesticides in Crop Implementation Sites.* Although no major efforts on these important activities were planned in the quarter, DAI did begin recruitment for an international STTA expert in agricultural input vouchers to assist with the development of a planned voucher test in the next planting season. The team had provisionally identified an expert and developed a draft SOW for this mission. The team has also begun to acquire materials from other projects involved in voucher schemes.

### **Sub-Result 1.4: Management Capacity of Water User Associations Increased**

No activity in the reporting period

### **Sub-Result 1.5: Property Security Strengthened**

Although no activity under this sub-result was anticipated in the reporting period, the IR1 Team did begin to define an approach for the initial diagnostic study-including identifying qualified STTA experts to conduct the required work. The IR1 Team also has begun to contact the main actors involved in land-tenure issues in the relevant dry lands areas concerned by this activity. The IR1 team is also working with IR3 on exploring possibilities for family-based drip irrigation investments in dry lands using PPP formulas. But these discussions are at a very early stage.

## IR2: WATERSHED STABILITY IMPROVED

During the quarter, the two IR2 team specialists essentially worked together with the IR1 team on the site visits to identify Priority Target Zones and key upstream areas requiring investments in hillside slope protection or water flow control. Major activities are discussed below.

### IR 2 LTTA Staff as of June 30:

Jean-Claude Pierre-Louis: Watershed Management Team Leader

Yves Gossin: Watershed Management Specialist

### IR2 LTTA Staff positions still to be filled as of June 30:

GIS Specialist

GIS Assistant

Hillside Agro/Forestry Production Specialist

Watershed Management Leader-East

### Sub-Result 2.1: Watershed Governance Bodies Established at the Sub-Watershed Level

*Activity 1: Select Target Sub-Watersheds.* IR2 Team members identified a preliminary list of 16 sites requiring protection in conjunction with the candidate IR1 priority Target Zones. These appear in the second column in the Table that appears above under Sub-Result 1.2. The final selection of proposed Sub-Watersheds will occur at the end of July in a joint process with the MARNDR and USAID.

*Activity 2: Detailed physical/agricultural inventory of Selected Sub-Watersheds.* Major input on this activity will begin after the final selection of sub-watersheds at the end of July. An obstacle to the implementation of this activity is the availability of the Project LTТА GIS specialist who has postponed his planned start-up date which was at the beginning of June until August. The project IR2 team is in the process of recruiting a series of short term GIS specialists to provide much needed immediate support for the establishment of needed watershed maps and the GIS data base.

### Sub-Result 2.3: Critical Slopes Stabilized Through Farmer-Level Investment

*Activity 1: Launching of nurseries for IR2 agro-forestry systems.* Pending the final selection of Sub-Watersheds, the IR2 Team's initial field investigations and discussion with community leaders have led to the provisional selection of an area of intervention upstream from the Grison Garde retention dam. The IR2 team has launched planning for nurseries to supply needed material in this zone to protect 300 hectares and 3,000 linear meters of ravines.

### Sub-Result 2.4: Crisis Management Capacity Strengthened

*Activity 1: Assess local government emergency preparedness capacities.* Although no activity in this quarter was planned for this sub-result the IR2 team and IR1 Senior Production Specialist, who will serve as the FtF-N AVANSE pre-designated Crisis Director, held meetings with the Délégués from the Nord and Nord-Est Départements to begin the planning necessary for the planned survey of the state of local Comités de Protection Civile in the two Départements.



## IR3: AGRICULTURAL MARKETS STRENGTHENED

### IR3 LTTA Staff As of June 30

Rodlene Paul, Agribusiness/Marketing Specialist & IR3 Team Leader

Alcindor Ewald, Agro-Processing Specialist

James Weber, Business Planning Specialist

### IR3 LTTA Staff positions still to be filled as of June 30

Business Training Specialist

Access to Finance Specialist

In addition to planning and developing the workplan, the IR 3 Team has spent much effort during the first quarter on field visits and fact finding visits with agribusinesses (Micro-Enterprises and SMEs) in the project zone. This work is critical to developing the overall data base of potential "Agro-Enterprise Clients" and in structuring and oriented all future training, finance and value chain support initiatives during the life of the project. The team is also beginning to explore possibilities for fostering Private Public Partnerships (PPPs) that will be pursued in the next quarter. These actions are described below.

### **Sub-Results 3.2: Improved Access to Storage and Processing Facilities and Sub-result and 3.5 Improved Value Chain Relationships**

*Activity 1: Conduct initial value chain diagnostics for 5 target crops and IR2 crops*

***Sub-activity 1: Conduct analysis of market potential and key VC linkages for IR 1 target crops.*** The IR 3 team with input from DAI and AGRIDEV staff drafted a SOW and submitted a proposed consulting team for the initial value chain assessment. This assessment is planned for July but was still waiting for technical and salary approvals from USAID at the end of the quarter. It will be scheduled when approvals are obtained.

***Sub-activity 2: Identify and assess potential agro-enterprise clients in Target Zones of concentration.*** During the reporting period, the IR 3 Team Leader and the Processing Specialist conducted field visits in the project zone to make contacts and begin collecting data for the data base on agro-enterprise clients involved in value chain functions. Data collected from each enterprise visited includes: name/raison social; location; contract; description of products/lines; preliminary SWOT analysis. A total of 60 potential agro-enterprise clients have been identified by the end of the quarter. This initial set of clients will form the basis of the IR3 Agro enterprise data base with the introduction of GIS data and more in-depth business data on turnover and profitability in the next quarter with the ramping-up of FtF-N *AVANSE* GIS capabilities. This activity is also being coordinated with IR1 as Target Zones are being progressively identified.

***Sub-activity 3: Conduct assessment of constraint to women entrepreneurs in target value chains.*** No activity in this quarter. A SOW and team will be devised with subcontractor Making Cents in the following quarter.

*Activity 2: Business skills and capacity building training*

No activity in reporting period.

### *Activity 3: Improve market storage infrastructure in pilot wholesale markets*

**Sub-Activity 1: Identify and select target site with local government authorities.** The IR3 team, working with the DDAs and local government authorities in the Nord and Nord-Est, has identified three candidate sites for the one planned intervention to provide improved market infrastructure to lower loss rates and facilitate improved aggregation. These are: (1) the market in Grison Garde; (2) the market in Perche; and (3) the market in Jean de Nantes. A final site will be selected and studies will begin in the next reporting period.

### *Activity 4: Improve Private Sector-Small Farmer Linkages*

**Sub-activity 1: Foster improved linkages between private sector businesses and small farmers in the project zone.** During the initial canvassing for Agro-Enterprise Clients, the IR3 Team has also been evaluating sectors in which there may be opportunities for increasing value added by linking small farmers with larger markets and private sector businesses. Two areas in particular have been pursued during the quarter:

1. Improving rice and corn milling through investments in better equipment and improved product handling at the farm level. The IR3 team has identified 15 SME rice mills in the North East who all suffer from high loss rates due to poor drying and handling of rice at the small farmer level and because of substandard equipment. Prospects for increasing value added in this sector with both investments and improved small farmer-mill linkages are quite good. In addition there are opportunities to work with the Chambre d'Agriculture in Limonade who has a contract to supply 450 tons of corn meal per year, but which is having difficulties meeting quality specifications due to poor storage conditions and uncontrolled humidity at the milling level. In general there is a shortage of quality milling operations for corn in particular. Investments in both these areas can help improve markets for corn and rice farmers in the Target Zones.
2. Improving small scale food processing operations. There are many small enterprises and women's groups involved in food processing that are facing common constraints. IR 3 staff have identified 35 units that produce and market products that include peanut butter, beverages/juices, chocolate, nuts/cashews, banana/rice flower and fruit preserves. Many of these groups suffer from basic lack of quality control and market linkages and could benefit from assistance with business planning, processing upgrades and marketing. In addition a small number of such businesses (more at the SME level) have potential for small scale export. But they will need to increase and secure their raw material supply and working capital in addition to maintaining quality control at higher volumes.

As IR1 Target Zones and sites come on-line in the future, IR 3 staff will develop training and support packaged to foster the develop of enterprises engaged in these functions.

**Sub-activity 2: Develop and implement Private Public Partnerships with private sector companies.** During the quarter, the IR 3 team has worked on incubating three specific PPP ideas. These are with: (1) AGRITRANS, a banana production concern that has plans to develop 1,000 ha in banana plantings in Limonade and can be linked with smaller producers to increase volumes needed for export; (2) REBO which is looking into sourcing cacao from the North and investing in a fermenting facility and could be linked to farmers with an eventual fair trade

certification; and (3) Haiti International Trade SA, a rice wholesaler who is interested in sourcing rice in the North. These will be pursued further in the next quarter.

### **Sub-Result 3.3: Increased Access to Financial Products**

An initial meeting was held with HIFIVE to set in place line of communication to facilitate finance for FtF-N *AVANSE* clients. Activity under this activity will ramp-up in the next quarter when the Project Access to Finance specialist is hired.

### **Sub-Result 3.4: Improved Market Information Systems**

No activities in the reporting period

## **IR4: CAPACITY BUILDING**

#### **IR 4 LTTA Staff as of June 30**

Senior Capacity Building Officer - Michael Wilson

#### **IR 4 LTTA positions still to be filled as of June 30**

Capacity Building Officers (2)

Capacity Building Specialist

Institutional Strengthening Specialist

IR 4 staff consisted of only the Senior Capacity Building Officer during the quarter. In general, most IR 4 activities are planned to begin in the next reporting period. Activities in this quarter were basically limited to preparing the work plan, working on future SOWs and doing initial reconnaissance of regional partner organization candidates for capacity building under FORWARD objectives. These are described below:

### **Sub-Result 4.1: Strengthen IPs and Potential Direct Award-Holders to Respond to USAID Forward Objectives**

#### **Track 1: CBOs local support institutions**

*Activity 1: Conduct a rapid capacity assessment of potential community-based organizations (CBOs) and agriculture support institutions (Universities, training centers, etc.).* With the mobilization of the IR4 component leader on May 20, implementation of this activity was limited and will begin in force in the next work plan period. The Senior Capacity Building Officer did meet with over 16 different potential partners in the six weeks he was present in the quarter. These are listed in the table below:

<b>Name</b>	<b>Contact</b>	<b>Phone</b>	<b>Area</b>	<b>Activity</b>	<b>Initial Assessment</b>
RAFAVAL	Ernise Petigny	3704.9418	Limonade	Cocoa	Partnered with DAI on HRI1, referred to IR3
MOPADEP	Frino St-Jean	3721.0861	Paulette	Community gardens	Low participation levels,
	Frino St-Jean	3721.0861	Phaeton	Community	

Name	Contact	Phone	Area	Activity	Initial Assessment
				gardens	ambitious plans
	Frino St-Jean	3721.0861	Derac	Community gardens	
	Frino St-Jean	3721.0861	Grand Bassin	Community gardens	
	Frino St-Jean	3721.0861	Grand Bassin	Community gardens	
North Coast Development Corp	Andy English	3898.4514	Terrier Rouge	Sisal, Maringa, fruit trees, peanuts, beans	Very active, very capable, willing?
SAE-A Foundation School	Jean Mirvil	4799.8282	Caracol	Public school	Would like advice/input from FTFN
SAE-A Foundation	Clement Lee	4644.2736	Caracol	Public school	See above
SCAgTech	Wilfene Richelieu	3776.5758	Trou du Nord	Agro consulting	Partnered with Chemonics on HRI2
FECANO *Co-op members	Wisampson Alfred	3622.9944	Plaine du Nord	Cocoa	Multiple partners, 5-6 containers per year, eco certified, infrastructure needs
CJBC*	Jude Derastin		Grande Riviere du Nord	Cocoa	Largest co-op for FECANO
UCAT*			Milot	Cocoa	
SOCOPOC*			Plaine du Nord	Cocoa	
CAFUPBO*			Ti Bouk O'Boy	Cocoa	
CAPB*			Ti Bouk O'Boy	Cocoa	
CAPUP*			Port Margot	Cocoa	
AFLIDEPA	Olga Jean-Pierre	3744.6923	Limonade	Peanut butter	Dynamic, various sources of funding
CALI	Levens Pierre	3653.0746 3375.9047	Limonade	Corn	Limited infrastructure
ARC	Diene Diouf	3483.8450	North/Northeast	Cross cutting	Capacity building mandate
Acunord	Loulouse Alcime-Macajoux	3624.5221 3356.5840 4325.6685	Petite Anse	Corn	Connections to US markets
Ayiti Nexus	Regine Zamor	3637.1306	Cap Haitian	Consulting, training	Very capable

In addition, the responsible for Gender conducted a meeting with the women's group Women Entrepreneurs North, a field agent of the Ministère à la Condition Féminine et aux Droits de la Femme and the Director of FINCA in Cap-Haitian to discuss the current situation of women's groups in the North, the opportunities and possibilities for collaboration with the project. Information from this meeting will be incorporated into the upcoming assessment. All these preparatory assessments will contribute to the general partner assessment of groups in the project zones to be conducted in the next quarter.

## **Track 2: NGOs, consulting firms and institutions that are potential Implementing Partners**

No activities in the reporting period

### **Sub-result 4.2: Strengthen the General Implementation Capacity of Beneficiaries & Partners in the project zone**

*Activity 1: Institutional Capacity Building for the MARNDR Bureaux Agricoles Communales (BAC) in AVANSE Target Zones.* The FtF-N AVANSE DCOP held three formal meetings with the heads of the DDAs of the North and the North East to begin discussing their needs for capacity building and to solicit their involvement in selection of Target Zones for IR 1. The DCOP also began preparing for the more formal participatory evaluation of MARNDR capacity building needs in the next quarter by holding a telephone meeting with the Minister of Agriculture regarding collaboration and the possibility of financial support through a grant for agreed upon joint activities in support of FtF-N AVANSE objectives.

## **INFRASTRUCTURE**

### **Infrastructure LTTA Staff as of June 30**

Infrastructure Specialist/Lead Engineer- Yves Ducarmel Francois

### **Infrastructure LTTA positions still to be filled as of June 30**

Senior Engineer

Junior Engineer

Infrastructure activities during the quarter consisted largely of the elaboration of the initial work plan and the recruitment of two assistant engineers who will work with the Engineering Team Leader. In addition, field work commenced as initial site visits were conducted to begin the process of identification possible irrigation and roads sites. These are described below.

### **Sub Result 1.4: Irrigation Systems Constructed/Rehabilitated and Management Capacity of Users Increased**

*Activity 1: Global assessment of drainage issues in key irrigated plains zones.* This is a major problem in the irrigate areas as the field visits confirmed that drainage canals are being used more often than not as irrigation canals which leads to recurrent flooding. The Infrastructure team will undertake a technical study of this issue in the project zone in the next reporting period.

*Activity 2: Identify and assess potential irrigation sites for project interventions in relation to IRI Crop Implementation Sites.* Site visits were conducted with the responsible technical units of the MARNDR and in association with Water User Associations. Sites were selected according to MARNDR priorities taking into account crop specializations in the focus crops. Initial sites visited that have been retained as possible intervention sites include: Grison Garde, Dubré, La Suisse, Coicou, Roche Plate, Matone, and Paulette. These initial investigations were limited to visual inspection. No trustworthy data on these systems is available. Technical studies with site diagnostics will need to be completed in the next quarter.

### **Sub-result 2.2 Critical Slopes Stabilized Through Public Works**

No activity during the reporting period.

### **Sub-result 3.1: Improved Transportation Infrastructure**

*Activity 1: Identify and assess potential feeder road sites in Target Zones and key sub-watersheds.* Site visits were undertaken by the Infrastructure Team in concert with the DDAs of the North and North East in order to assess priorities for road investments taking into consideration crop priorities and other donor commitments. The list of candidate roads provided by USAID and the regional MARNDR representatives provided the basic pool of candidate roads. Additions to this list were made taking into account priorities for road work in zones that are Target Zone candidates under IR 1. Methodology was based on visual inspection to assess the degree of accessibility, beginning and ending points, crop production in the zone served, and the type of road traffic observed.

Candidate road segments visited are as follows: Camp Coq - Massabiel ; Carrefour Duty - Labruyère ; Plaine du Nord - Duty; Duty - Grison Garde ; Carrefour Georges - Ravine Desroches ; Limonade - Carrefour Montolon ; Carrefour La Chaux - Barrage Grison Garde ; Robillard - Grison Garde; Carrefour La Chaux - Route Touristique ; Dupity - Sainte Suzanne ; Route Nationale - Coicou.

A meeting was also held with the USAID Cost-Benefit Analysis (CBA) team to present a possible model for use under the project. Joint visits of some of the above road segments and further discussions on methodology will be held in July.

## **ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLIANCE**

Environmental compliance activities during the quarter were as follows:

**Preparation of the project's Environmental Mitigation Plan and Report (EMPR).** The project LTТА staff and the STТА EMPR consultant spent a major effort in May and June on completing the EMPR. A first draft was submitted on May 17 and after receiving USAID comments, a final draft was submitted to USAID on June 25.

**Providing input to permit the project procurement of needed pesticides not covered under the current PERSUAP.** IR1 staff worked closely with the STТА EMPR consultant and the LTТА Environmental Compliance Specialist to provide a list of pesticides and possible uses for each of the main IR1 and IR2 crops. This information was used to prepare the project EMPR submission.

**Recruiting for a Project Environmental Officer (PEO).** Following the May mission of the STTA EMPR consultant, the FtF-N Project Direction determined that the importance of this component will require a high level component manager-which will likely need to be an expatriate due to the low numbers of qualified candidates in Haiti. An SOW was drafted in May and recruitment launched in June for this position.

## **MONITORING & EVALUATION**

Monitoring & Evaluation activities during the quarter were totally focused on the elaboration of the project's Monitoring & Evaluation Plan which absorbed the LTTA M&E Specialist and a team of two international STTAs, one of whom provided off-site guidance while the other served as the main author for the M&E Plan. A draft of the M&E Plan was presented to USAID on May 15 with comments received on June 8th. In subsequent discussions with USAID during the week of the Project Launch Event on June 20 it became clear that there were a number of underlying issues that required discussion between the team and USAID, notably concerning the selection of indicators and the programming of baseline surveys. Therefore USAID and FtF-N agreed to schedule a meeting in July with the two international M&E Plan STTAs and the Project M&E Specialist and COP to resolve these pending questions. It is anticipated that the M&E Plan will be finalized following this meeting in early July.

In addition the LTTA M&E Specialist has constructed a comprehensive file of available data and studies on the project zone of intervention and begun to work with the IR teams on defining base line measurements and collecting regular data on project realizations. This information will be fed into the project's TAMIS management system when this becomes operational in the next quarter.

## **PROJECT MANAGEMENT**

The first three months of project implementation centered on mobilization of both in-country and home office resources to ensure a repaid and efficient project launch. Utilizing a multi-phased plan that combined DAI's start-up experience and available in-country resources, DAI had long term and short term staff mobilized within a week of contract award including DCOP, Joanas Gue and Home Office Project Director, Christopher Reynolds. The project is on its way to becoming fully operational including the hiring of core staff and establishing many of the financial and administrative systems, policies, and procedures.

The Start-up Operations Manager, Matt Buzby, arrived in Haiti on April 18th to provide technical assistance in establishing the financial and administrative systems of the project, developing the *AVANSE* Field Operations Manual, and initiating procurement. He was assisted by the Start-up Technical Manager, Tim Aston, who arrived in country on April 8th. Chief Party, Criss Juliard arrived in country on April 15th to attend the official technical kick off meeting with USAID. Due to prior commitments, Mr. Juliard returned to his home of record but then mobilized fulltime on May 20th.

On June 20th the project held official launch event which was attended by 400 people. Ambassador White, President Michel Martelly and Minister Thomas Jacques spoke at the event and the first stone was placed for future infrastructure activities in Grison Garde.

**Recruitment:** One of the major challenges faced by *AVANSE* was recruiting for long term staff since the project began over a year after the initial proposal was conceived and many of the staff who had originally committed to DAI had taken new positions including the Expatriate Grants Program Manager and Operations Manager. *AVANSE* immediately started the recruitment process for local and expatriate staff members during the first week of the project. The Recruitment Specialist, Rebecca Skipp, arrived in Haiti on April 25th and immediately began working on recruitment. The recruitment process included an intensive period of screening, preliminary selection of candidates, and interviews. At the end of the quarter, *AVANSE* had 39 long term staff that had started working fulltime on the project and an additional 13 candidates who were on track to start in July and August.

**Office Space:** Office Space selection and office set-up were one of the critical priorities of the *AVANSE* team during the beginning of the project. While a final office space was identified, staff worked out of temporary office space at the Mont Joli and Roi Christophe hotels. The staff visited a number of potential offices that would be convenient for beneficiaries to visit, for staff to travel to the field, and would be large enough to fit the team in one building. Suitable office space is limited in Cap-Haitien but in May the team signed a lease for a building under construction starting June 1st in Breda. The team moved into the space starting June 8th and space is currently undergoing upgrades for IT wiring and generator set-up. Basic office equipment and appliances have been purchased and a large number of laptops were hand carried into country in order to ensure project operations could continue. The larger IT shipment including server is anticipated for July once customs paperwork is processed.

**Finance and Registration:** *AVANSE*, with assistance from the DAI PSP project team, worked on establishing an accounting system and a bank account at Unibank in the Mid-May. *AVANSE* is operating under the DAI registration obtained under previous projects and is in the process of reconfirming the project and DAI's legal status in Haiti. Meanwhile, the *AVANSE* Power of Attorney was delivered to the COP when mobilized fulltime on May 20th.

## **PRIORITY ACHIEVEMENTS FORESEEN IN NEXT QUARTER**

### **IR 1**

- Finalization of all focus crop technical packages and target farmer profiles
- Selection of Target Zones and Crop Implementation Sites
- Procurement of all genetic material needed for Fall planting season by FFSs
- Initiation of FFS trainings in all focus crops except maize
- Elaboration of pilot agricultural input voucher experience
- Diagnostic study of Water User Associations
- Diagnostic study with implementable recommendations for drip irrigation development in dry lands

### **IR 2**

- Mapping of all Targeted Sub-Watersheds completed



- GIS data base established
- Sub-watershed Management Bodies formation begun in targeted sub-watersheds
- Diagnostic assessment of sustainability of SWMBs in Limbé completed
- IR 2 crop nurseries established for appropriate soil conserving crops
- Fruit tree grafting underway in targeted Sub-watersheds

### **IR 3**

- Value Chain Analysis for focus crops completed
- Market improvement site collected and technical study completed
- 3 PPPs signed
- Cash Flow model for main Agro-Enterprise Client categories completed
- Training plan for Micro and Small Enterprise Clients finalized
- MIS reactivated for cacao in the North

### **IR 4**

- OCAs completed for AGRIDEV and AgroConsult
- Institutional Assessment of local CBOs and partners completed
- Training workshops delivered to potential partners on USAID compliance
- Participatory Needs Assessment completed for MARNDR with FtF-N assistance components identified

## **INFRASTRUCTURE**

- Assessment of drainage problems and potential solutions in the northern plain
- Preliminary Irrigation Site Assessments completed
- Irrigation Site CBAs begun
- Hillside stabilization sites identified and prioritized
- Preliminary Road Site Assessments completed
- Road Site CBAs begun

## **M&E**

- IR1 economic crop models finalized
- Base line and post harvest survey data collection completed